



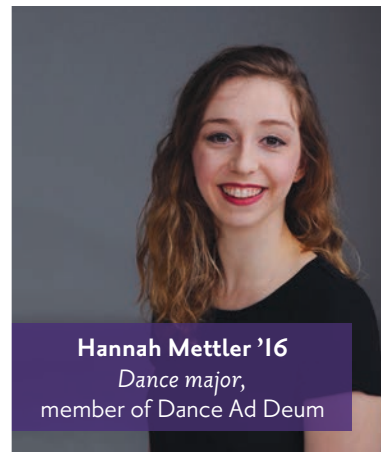
# Theatre and Dance

*We offer a rigorous exploration of historic and contemporary theatre or dance practice within a vibrant liberal arts program.*

Our curriculum cultivates the stewardship of intellect and imagination through a variety of Christian perspectives. In a dynamic exchange between learning and doings, you'll engage theatre and dance through a wealth of hands-on experiences. Students participate in theatre and dance as a forum for civic dialogue where history, culture, politics and religion meet to give form and meaning to the human experience. Upon graduation, you will be prepared not only to meet the artistic and technical challenges of 21st-century theatre and dance, but also to serve and lead a new generation of artists and scholars.



**Tobias Nordlund '17**  
Musical theatre major,  
cast member at Sight & Sound Productions



**Hannah Mettler '16**  
Dance major,  
member of Dance Ad Deum

## Musical theatre

*Captivate audiences on center stage.*

Foster your creative passion as you delve into the world of theatrical entertainment. Delight audiences with imaginative combinations of acting, dancing and singing as you convey energy and emotion through character development and interpretation. Armed with well-honed skills in live performance, technical training and professional auditions, you'll be ready to **inspire audiences around the globe**.

### Highlights of the musical theatre major

- The primary focus of the degree is theatre, but because of its interdisciplinary nature, students also receive extensive training in dance and music.
- Students participate in on-campus productions, perform a senior showcase and have the option to join one or more of the college's performance ensembles, including Messiah University Vocal Jazz group.
- All students have the opportunity to audition for theatre professionals as part of the auditions techniques class.
- Messiah University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre, one of only a few Council of Christian Colleges and Universities offering a BFA in musical theatre.
- Find out more at [messiah.edu/musicaltheatre](http://messiah.edu/musicaltheatre).

"The reason I chose Messiah is because there is an incredible program, comparable to those in New York City conservatories, within this smaller community of people who invest in your talents and spiritual growth."

— Messiah student

## Dance

*Communicate and express yourself through movement.*

Translate movement into expressions of worship and a means of profound communication. Express your thoughts and feelings through motion, balance and strength. Dance is an important and unique form of human expression—a way of knowing and understanding the world. At Messiah, dance is also an avenue to serve God and others. Incorporate a deep understanding of the history and meaning of dance into your repertoire to help you develop your own style and **perfect your art**.

### Highlights of the dance major

- The curriculum balances technical coursework in ballet, modern jazz, tap and dance ministry with theoretical coursework in the art and history of dance.
- Dance students are members of givim (God's Instruments Visualized in Motion), the professional dance community of Messiah University, which performs on campus several times a year.
- Dance majors often have the opportunity to play a role in Messiah University's musical theatre productions as both dancers and choreographers.
- Dance students also have the opportunity to study abroad while expanding their dance experience and knowledge in London at the University of Roehampton.
- Dance is also offered as a minor.
- Many dance students teach or intern for local dance studios in the area.
- Find out more at [messiah.edu/dance](http://messiah.edu/dance).

### Department faculty highlights

- Faculty members are practicing performers, playwrights, producers and designers.
- All full-time faculty are dedicated Christian scholars.
- Department professors are professional dancers and instructors, some of whom have studied and performed with the Contemporary Ballet of Pennsylvania, Rev9 Dance Company, Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Ohio Light Opera and Allenberry Playhouse.



## Theatre

### *Transport audiences and imaginations.*

Cultivate your intellect and imagination as you assume new roles and personas while inviting your audiences to journey to unfamiliar places with you. As a budding actor, director or production technician, delve into the historic context of theatrical productions and create new interpretations, new characters and new voices. Explore the intersections between Christian faith and theatre as you use your talents and gifts as a means of public discourse and discussion to **interpret the world in creative ways**.

### Highlights of the theatre major

- Each year, theatre majors apply classroom and studio knowledge to a robust production season of six to eight productions.
- The Department of Theatre and Dance offers a rigorous exploration of historic and contemporary theatre practice within a vibrant liberal arts tradition.
- Students develop a discerning critique of self, peers, process and product.
- With close proximity to cultural centers such as Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and even New York City, Messiah's theatre majors gain exposure to a broad range of acting, directing and technical production experiences, techniques and internships.
- The Messiah theatre program participates in the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival.
- Messiah University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).
- Find out more at [messiah.edu/theatre](http://messiah.edu/theatre).

## Digital Media

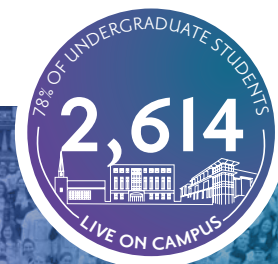
The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in digital media, church media concentration, is an interdisciplinary major. Students complete core courses in digital video, sound design, computer science and visual art, and then concentrate in their area of interest. Internships and classroom experiences prepare students for a wide variety of exciting careers.

## Careers for department students

- Students can audition for touring companies of musicals, in summer stock theatre or in musical theatre offerings in New York City or other major cities around the country.
- The extensive training in movement, singing and acting provides a strong preparation for any career requiring frequent public visibility.
- Positions in theatre as actors, directors, designers or technicians
- Professional apprenticeship
- Drama ministry positions or community art activists

## Facilities and resources overview

- Grace Pollock Dance Studio with a sprung Marley Dance surface, and sound and lighting equipment for class and performance
- Miller Theater, a proscenium-style theatre in Climenhaga Building with fixed seating for 400 patrons
- Poorman Black Box Theater, fully-equipped performance and learning space complete with state-of-the-art sound and lighting, dressing rooms and a green room
- Fully-equipped scene shop and rehearsal studio wing with individual practice rooms, small scene studios and an additional dance studio
- Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts, comprised of state-of-the-art performance spaces for numerous dance events and experiences





Messiah University recently participated in the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) survey of alumni in the arts. This survey has compiled [data on the jobs, income and artistic life of more than 150,000 arts alumni nationwide](#). Our participation in this survey has given us not only information about our alumni, but has also allowed us to compare how our graduates are doing with the graduates of some of the major visual arts programs in the country. We found that [our outcomes were as good as or better than graduates of schools such as the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Drexel University and the University of New Haven](#).  
Adjusted sample size: 68, response rate: 26%



## Our alumni

**100%** found work within a year after graduation or pursued further education.

**74%** indicated their work **reflected their interests and values** and felt **their work contributed to the greater good**.

**100%** had a positive experience  
**AT MESSIAH**



Our alumni reported stronger training in several areas of general education, including breadth of education, creative thinking, research skills, writing, project management skills and leadership skills.

**80%** say they are satisfied with their current job, *much higher than in other fields.*

Our alumni also reported higher levels of community service, study abroad, internships and co-curricular activities.

